

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Attorney: Abedini has 'turn for worse'

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) and local reports — Christian pastor Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen imprisoned for his faith in his native Iran, has been moved to a private hospital but was shackled and denied medical care, prompting the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which is working for his freedom, to say on March 12 that his case has taken a turn for the worse.

However, ACLJ reported March 13 that Abedini had been released from the shackles and was allowed to receive visitors again — but he has not been treated for severe abdominal ailments resulting from beatings by Iranian prison guards.

The refusal to treat Abedini, and the fact that a high-ranking European Union (EU) official was visiting Iran at the time, have led observers to conclude that the hospital transfer was a sham.

Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, who is in Idaho with their two children, asked through Facebook that believers worldwide pray and even "fast from something" until March 20, which marks the Iranian New Year when the Islamic republic often grants clemency to prisoners of conscience.

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see ABEDINI on p. 6



ABEDINI

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TALKING HEALTH — Visiting with Joni Eareckson Tada (right) and her husband Ken (second from right) during the book signing after Joni's keynote address at the Health Conference Feb. 28 at First Church, Jackson, were (from left) Virginia Stiedle, Judy Varner, and Frank Stiedle. The Health Conference was held in connection with the 2014 Mississippi Baptist Convention theme, "In the Name of Jesus Rise Up," based on Acts 3:6,16. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

In the name of Jesus ... Health Conf. draws Baptists to Jackson

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A wide swath of Mississippi Baptists attended the centerpiece of the 2014 Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) theme Feb. 28 at First Church, Jackson.

"The 850 people in attendance at the Health Conference, which was held in connection with the 2014 MBC emphasis, 'In the Name of Jesus Rise Up,' (Acts 3:6,16) experienced a meaningful time of worship from both

the music and messages," said Steve Stone, event coordinator and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) associate executive director for church growth.

Stone said the conference was attended by many age groups, from teens to seniors. "My prayer is that each person present — and all Mississippi Baptists — will, 'In the Name of Jesus Rise Up,' and take care of their physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional health."

Speakers and their topics at the conference included:

"My prayer is that each person present — and all Mississippi Baptists — will, 'In the Name of Jesus Rise Up,' and take care of their physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional health."

Steve Stone, event coordinator and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) associate executive director for church growth

2 more believers killed in Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Islamic extremists from the rebel Al Shabaab militia last week publicly beheaded a mother of two girls and her cousin in southeastern Somalia after discovering they were Christians, Morning Star News reported from sources inside the country.

On March 4 in the port town of Barawa, the extremists called residents to the town center to witness the executions of the 41-year-old mother, Sadia Ali Omar, and her 35-year-old cousin, Osman Mohamoud Moge, the sources said.

Before killing them, an Al Shabaab militant announced, "We know these two people are Christians who recently came back from Kenya. We want to wipe out any underground Christian living inside of mujahidin [jihadists'] area," according to an area resident whose name is undisclosed for security reasons.

Omar's daughters, ages

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

How times change

Forty-five years ago this month, rock wild man Jim Morrison of The Doors shocked the country by allegedly fondling himself and shouting obscenities before 12,000 fans at a Miami concert. Although he disputed the charges, he was found guilty at trial and sentenced to six months in jail.

He never served the sentence because his appeal was pending when he died in Paris in 1971 at the age of 27. No definitive cause of death was ever established.

It wasn't the first time he had been arrested for his on-stage antics, but in that day and age Morrison's conduct in Miami was seen culturally (as well as legally) as stepping over the line. The Miami Herald newspaper reported at the time that the concert crowd was populated with a large number of junior high and high school students who witnessed the act.

Rallies were organized to protest Morrison's conduct, and encouraged by public leaders and politicians all the way up to U.S. President Richard Nixon. A 20-city concert tour was cancelled. The Doors were reduced to playing a gig in Mexico City several months later, under strict terms imposed by the Mexican government. As Morrison's alcoholism consumed him and his musical career slowly immolated, The Doors struggled on until his untimely death.

The Miami incident was a costly mistake that caused the country to reel in disgust. American society of that day exacted its price for Morrison's misconduct. Morrison was in the process of fading into obscurity when he died and even though a few diehard fans, many of whom probably weren't even born when Morrison was in his heyday, still trickle to his grave in Paris, today he and his music are largely forgotten — swept into the proverbial dust bin of history.

Flash ahead to the America of today, almost a half-century later. Lady Gaga, the current queen of pop music, is performing at this year's South by Southwest street festival in Austin, Texas. In terms of popularity, Lady Gaga is as adu-

lated as Morrison was at his peak. There are millions of young people who follow her career.

According to news media reports, Lady Gaga appeared at a local BBQ joint dressed in a small black bikini, where she allowed herself to be fastened to a spit and pretended to be barbecued over a fire while attendants basted her with brushes. At least, that's the part that can be retold in a family newspaper.

There's more, however. During Gaga's concert that followed, a "performance artist" by the name of Millie Brown appeared on stage. Her style of performance art is known as "vomit painting." Before the packed room, Brown drank a neon lime-colored fluid and proceeded to vomit all over Lady Gaga as she played the drums.

There's more, however. Wearing her fresh coat of vomit, Gaga mounted a mechanical bull with Brown and the two women publicly engaged in conduct that cannot be described on the pages of The Baptist Record.

There's more, however. The next morning, Gaga used social media to post a photograph of herself, totally nude and reclining in a bathtub filled with a neon lime-colored liquid

that strongly resembled the remains of Brown's vomitus from the night before.

This time there was no public outrage, as opposed to Morrison's experience in 1969. People didn't march in the streets and attend rallies. There was no society-imposed sanction, and apparently won't be as Gaga continues to receive praise for such edgy stunts. Most disappointing of all, her concerts will continue to sell out — a ringing endorsement that such vile behavior is now acceptable among our young people and young adults.

Reading of such decadence in the time of the Roman Empire and other civilizations causes us to catch our breath and shake our heads. We often ask, "How could they stoop to such a disgusting, demeaning level. What kind of people were they?"

It's time we asked ourselves the same questions.



MORRISON



GAGA

Voter ID a reality in Miss.

It is exhilarating to see someone enter the voting booth for the first time, cast his or her ballot, and emerge with a smile as wide as the ocean. Better yet is to overhear the conversation between a six-year-old and his mother as she is about to vote, when he looks up and asks, "Mommy, when do I get to vote?"

Voting is a fundamental right granted to us by our Constitution. Some declare it a right, and some call it a privilege, while others say voting is our civic duty. All of them are correct.

The voting process has changed over the years from chalkboard to ballots, from ballots to pulling a lever, and from pulling a lever to touching a button on a computer screen. Yet the purpose of voting remains the same, and that is to give the people a voice in their government.

Thus, our government from Washington to local elected officials works diligently to ensure the integrity of this process. They are mandated to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote and that each vote will be counted.

Mississippi will be joining numerous other states this year requiring some form of voter identification. Our Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann, and his staff are going the second mile in making sure all registered voters have proper ID when they go to the polls on June 3.

The Christian Action Commission is asking all pastors, church leaders, and church members to assist the Secretary of State's office in identifying and assisting voters who at the moment do not have proper identification. Others may not be registered to vote and hopefully you will be willing to assist them in the registration process.

There are ten types of voter ID that are acceptable at the voting precinct. They are: (1) a driver's license; (2) a photo ID issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi; (3) A U.S. passport; (4) a government employee ID card; (5) a firearms license; (6) a student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior college; (7) a U.S. military ID; (8) a tribal photo ID; (9) any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government or any State government; or (10) a Mississippi Voter Identification card.

Ninety-five percent or better of Mississippi residents already have one of these forms of ID. Make sure you take



Guest opinion
with Jimmy Porter

yours with you when you go vote.

If someone in your community does not have proper voter ID or if he or she has not registered to vote, the remedy is simple. They can go to any Circuit Clerk's office during business hours and take any ONE of the following types of documents with them: (1) Any expired, but valid, document having the voter's name and photograph issued by the U.S. government or any U.S. state; (2) a birth certificate or any other document with the voter's full legal name, date, and place of birth; (3) a Social Security card; (4) a Medicare card; (5) a Medicaid card; (6) a Mississippi Voter Identification card; (7) Any of the following, as long as it includes the voter's name and current address: utility bill issued within the preceding six months; bank statement issued within the preceding six months; paycheck issued within the preceding six months; government check issued within the preceding six months; or IRS FORM W-2, Wages and Tax Statement issued within the current calendar year.

If transportation is not readily available for someone to register or to acquire a Mississippi Voter ID card, Secretary of State Hosemann has made this easy. Call toll-free (855) 868-3745, or (844) 678-6837 for free transportation and for additional information.

Visit the voter ID website at MSVoterID.ms.gov or email to MSVoterID@sos.ms.gov.

Every vote is important, and it is important that everyone votes. As former U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.

THE Baptist Record

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BAPTISTS

Alabama minister pleads guilty to child sex charges

MUSCLE SHOALS, Ala. (BP and local reports) — A Baptist children's pastor in Alabama has pleaded guilty to 16 counts of sodomy, three counts of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12, and one count of child pornography.

Jeffrey Dale Eddie, 41, the children's pastor and administrator of Highland Park Church in Muscle Shoals, was arrested Feb. 4. Eddie, who was released from his duties upon arrest, had served on the Highland Park Church staff for 16 years.

Eddie was originally charged with two counts of child pornography, 31 counts of second-degree sodomy, and three counts of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12, according to The Alabama Baptist newspaper.

Colbert County District Attorney Bryce Graham in earlier public statements estimated the number of victims to be in the "double digits."

Court documents indicate Eddie confessed to performing multiple sex acts on children from the church he served. WAFF-TV reported Eddie will serve at least 30 years in prison under his March 7 plea.

Prior to his role at Highland Park Church, Eddie was employed by North Highland Church near Tuscaloosa, North Village Church in Florence, and one other unconfirmed church, according to his personal website.

Brett Pitman, pastor of Highland Park Church, discussed at the Alabama State Evangelism Conference in Montgomery Feb. 24-25 the church's desire

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The Baptist Children's Village has partnered with the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Morrison Heights Baptist Church to provide SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING to help reduce the risk of child abuse in your communities. Event is free but registration is required. For more information call The Baptist Children's Village at (601) 952-2422 or visit www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

to minister to the hurting families affected by the tragedy.

During his sermon, Pitman said suffering provides an opportunity for God to be glorified. He urged listeners to allow weeping to lead them to worship.

"When you are stripped bare... beaten down... and yet in the midst of that through [a] broken heart you're able to stand and worship the one true, holy God," Pitman said, "...it will be the most glorious worship you will ever experience. In the midst of suffering, get your eyes off the storm and... on Jesus."

Following Eddie's arrest, Highland Park Church released a statement saying the church was "outraged, shocked, and deeply saddened" by the news.

"First and foremost, we are striving to assist any children and families that have been affected by these events," the statement said. "The health and well-being of these children is our number one priority at this time."

The Muscle Shoals Police Department picked up Eddie for questioning Feb. 2 after the

church's worship arts pastor, Jeff Beech, found two pornographic images of young males among Eddie's laptop files.

Beech and Pitman had asked to see Eddie's electronic devices after a church member walked into Eddie's office in late January and witnessed a child sitting on his lap with Eddie's hands inside the child's shirt.

When questioned by police Eddie said he was addicted to pornography and the images on his computer were downloaded from the Internet. The investigation was originally focused on child pornography but

evidence pointed authorities to additional charges, the police said.

Though Eddie reportedly admitted to sexually abusing multiple members of Highland Park Church's children's ministry, he was unable to recall all of the victims. One victim said Eddie engaged in sexual acts with him at least once a month beginning in 2011 when the child was 11 years old.

Eddie has two sons. According to court documents, his wife Melissa filed for divorce Feb. 3.

Bible museum takes step forward with hirings

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — A yet-to-be-named Bible museum owned by Hobby Lobby's Green family moved one step closer to its anticipated 2017 opening in Washington, D.C., with the hiring of two top-level management executives.

The Museum of the Bible, a nonprofit organization that will oversee the museum, hired David Trobisch as director of the museum's collections and Steve Bickley as vice president of marketing, finance, and administration, according to a March 6 news release.

The museum, which will focus on the story, history, and impact of the Bible, will be located in a reconstructed 400,000-square-foot space that formerly was the Washington Design Center, just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol.

Housed in the museum will be a collection of 40,000 ancient biblical texts and artifacts, including one of the world's largest private collections of Dead Sea Scrolls and the earliest surviving New Testament texts in Jesus' household language.

Steve Green, museum chairman and president of the Hobby Lobby arts and crafts retail chain, lauded Trobisch's expertise as an independent Bible scholar who consults with the American and German Bible societies.

"When we looked in the academic community for ... a scholar to lead our acquisition and research efforts, David Trobisch was mentioned time and again as someone who is a very skilled, distinguished scholar," Green said. Trobisch will advise on new acquisitions,

identify the storylines for the museum's exhibits and supervise a team of 30 scholars and curators.

Bickley had been executive vice president of marketing and business development for Bell Media, Canada's largest media company.

Developing a museum to educate the world about the Bible is an important move, Green has said. "We have probably the most ignorant population we've ever had in our society [about the Bible] because it's been taken out of our schools."

"We want to be able to, in a simple way, explain to them, 'Here's what the Bible is.' Ultimately, it's about the fact that we are sinners, we need a Savior, and Christ was that, and He came to die for us that we might have life."

Green is owner of the world's largest private collection of rare biblical texts and artifacts, and he only began the endeavor in 2009. He believes the Bible is "the most incredible book ever written" and that it has "had the greatest impact on our society of any other book."

He plans for the museum to tell the story of the Bible in a solid, academic way.

Until the museum opens, the Green Collection is featured in the worldwide traveling exhibition called Passages. The 14,000-square-foot interactive multimedia exhibition includes rare biblical manuscripts, printed Bibles, and historical items including ancient biblical papyri, portions of the Gutenberg Bible, and multiple first editions of the English Bible through the King James Version.

A spokesperson for the Green Collection said the family amassed the collection "not to lock it away for safekeeping or tuck into a think tank but to share it with the world. They don't consider themselves collectors. Their goal is to make the history, scholarship and impact of the Bible accessible to everyone."

The Green family is also in the news of late for their opposition to the Obama administration's mandate that all U.S. businesses must provide employees with free contraception, including drugs that cause abortions. The company's brief against the mandate will go before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 25. A ruling by the court is expected to be released before the end of June.

There is an old story about two men who were standing and watching a funeral procession of a very wealthy man in their area as it was on its way to the cemetery. One of the men watching the procession said, "I wonder how much he left behind?" To which the other man replied, "All of it!"

While some cultures have burial practices that involve putting food and provisions with the body of the dead person so that they will have something for the journey ahead, even when discovered thousands of years later the provisions are just as they were at the time of burial – untouched and unused. It is true that you probably will never see a U-Haul Trailer hooked to a hearse. We leave everything behind.

That is not the end of the story of what we leave behind. For the Scripture says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth: yea," saith the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13). When you are gone, you are gone. But when you are gone, your influence can remain and do great things for the Kingdom of God. Both what you leave and where you leave it makes a difference. Take a moment to think about these two questions – what and where.

Think about the what, the foundation component. Most of the time when we think about what we leave behind, we think of the material possessions, money and investments that we have accumulated, if any. But of more importance than thousands or millions of dollars is the spiritual foundation that you leave for family, friends and even those who may not ever have the opportunity to know you personally. The Bible says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 3:11). Your walk, work and witness for Christ form a foundation that no one can steal and it will last forever. It is the most significant thing that you can leave to your children, grandchildren or acquaintances. It is the fact that you knew Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He was the strength of your life,



What You Leave Behind

the foundation of what you did and your promise for everything in the future.

Decades ago I received a call from a family wanting to know if I would be willing to preach the funeral of their dad. I had never met any of these people in the family and was called because of a mutual acquaintance who told them that I might be able to help. I went to meet the family at the funeral home as they were making arrangements for the service. Not knowing them or their dad who had passed away, I wanted to spend some time with them and get a sense of who he was and who they were.

During the conversation, I asked them if there was any outstanding thing or things that he loved and had given his life to that they wanted me to mention during the funeral. I soon found that this man had no church affiliation and no evidence of faith in his life which broke my heart. Even more tragic was the fact that neither his spouse nor children had any clue about anything spiritual. None of them had a relationship with Jesus. The conversation continued until finally one of the older kids spoke up and said, "Well I would say two things about him. He loved his country, and he loved golf." That was about it as far as what he had left for his prosperity. At the funeral his coffin was draped with the American flag. The casket was open,

a putter had been placed by his side, and that was his legacy.

The foundation that is most important is one that is higher, better and eternal in nature. It is a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Now before you think about getting with an attorney or financial advisor to decide where you want your resources to go when you are gone, I would encourage you to spend time with the Lord and allow Him to examine what kind of spiritual foundation you are leaving for others.

While my mom and dad left very little earthly goods behind, I am forever blessed and impacted by their lives of faithfulness to the Lord. My dad preached the Word of God and shared the saving power of Jesus with multitudes. My mom loved the Word of God and shared with people the care of Jesus. The foundation of your life resting on Christ is the most important thing that you can leave to others.

The second component is where you will leave your resources. I would ask you to be thoughtful of your family. In the biblical culture, this is often seen as a dad would plan to bless his children and his children's children. You will recall in Luke 15 when Jesus gave the Parable of the Prodigal Son, it began with a boy wanting his inheritance before it was time. Out of love, the father divided

his inheritance. The boy took his part and headed off to the far country.

You can make a difference in your children's lives by leaving behind some resources to help them along the way. Out of fear that their children will squander everything, some parents decide that they will not leave anything. And certainly there are times when nothing is left to be left. I have even seen signs on a big boat or RV saying, "We are spending our children's inheritance." While it is certainly right that you live while you are living and enjoy life the best that you can, there is also a sense of care and future blessings that you need to consider for your children.

The one final consideration of where you might leave some of your resources is to consider faith. While there are probably hundreds of thousands of different foundations and opportunities for charitable work, for the believer it might be the greatest blessing to think about your church and its ministries and missions and how your resources could reach far beyond your lifespan to make a difference in people's lives just as your life has been blessed. Christian schools, childcare, hospitals and mission programs can all be strengthened, endowed and undergirded for decades after your life has ended.

Keep in mind that the principles by which you live and the biblical guidance in your daily stewardship can go on blessing the work of God by what you leave behind. You may wonder how you can go about doing that. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation exists in part to help you think through what you want to do. You are the decision maker that controls what you have now and what will be done with what you leave behind. It might be worth a call today as you think about the day that you are on the way to the cemetery. Someone may ask, "I wonder how much he left behind?" The answer can be, "All of it, but oh what a difference it is going to make!"

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

College News



Students from 12 elementary and middle schools in South Mississippi are shown at the Barnes and Nobles Book Store at WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY during the ninth annual Young Authors Celebration Mar. 7 hosted by the WCU Department of Education. Approximately 500 elementary and middle school students attended the annual event which encourages students to write and publish their own books. The keynote speaker this year was Vaughn Wilson of Vaughn Wilson Photography. Other guest speakers included Rick Anderson of Clinton, Fluor Bradley of Biloxi, Kym Garraway Braley of Hattiesburg, Read Diket from WCU, Ginny Kemp of Columbia, Jean Sauls of Columbia, and Diane Williams of Jackson.

In other College News:

► No. 3 William Carey University completed a perfect run through the Southern States Athletic Conference as they defeated No. 6 Emmanuel College, 85-73 in the championship game of the 2014 SSAC Tournament. Neither team led by more than five points in the first half and with the Crusaders down 26-25, Kelvin Nixon (SR, Heidelberg, Miss.) reeled off four straight points as WCU outscored Emmanuel 6-2 over the final 90 seconds of the half to send WCU into the half up 31-28. Carey wasted little time taking control of the game with a 19-4 run to open a 50-32 lead with fourteen minutes left to play. Emmanuel answered back with a 15-3 run to cut the lead to 53-47 then Daron Bell (SR, Waveland, Miss.) ended the Lions rally almost single handedly. Bell scored 9 of the Crusaders next 11 points to help WCU push the lead back to 13 points. Emmanuel never got closer than 9 points over the final five minutes.

Staff Changes



COUNTY LINE CHURCH, OVEETT, has called Zach Wilson as youth pastor effective Feb. 5. He is a student at William Carey University and plays drums with The Spirit of Carey.

In other Staff News:

► W.A. (Billy) Smith is now scheduling revivals and Bible conferences for 2014 – 2015. He is also available for pulpit supply. For more information, call (601) 832-1789.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 20, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

LIVE WEBCAST

ADULT BIBLE STUDY *Leadership Training*

APRIL 15, 2014 • 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Is your Adult Bible Study Healthy?

We'll be addressing questions from Bible Study Leaders across the state and you can submit your own questions by text via a live chat during the webcast. Join with us at no cost from your church, home or wherever you are by internet on your computer/laptop, phone, tablet, IPod.

Topics

• Healthy Preparation • Healthy Teaching
• Healthy Application

Bonus Vignettes

Reaching Adults in Mississippi • Telling Jesus Stories • Being a Part of Kingdom Work!
Sunday School Preparation Rally

Hosted and Lead By

Mississippi Sunday School Leaders
and David Apple, Adult Ministry Specialist,
LifeWay Christian Resources

Connect with us on April 15 at 6:30 by going to:
www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE MOLD ME AND MAKE ME

APRIL 7-8, 2014

Join us at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center for the Ministry Assistants Conference!

Special Guest Speaker:

Janie Walters

Worship Leader:

Jason Easley

Contact Cathy Taylor of the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. for more information at 601-292-3305.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT CONNECT CAMPS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

Mississippi Baptist Student Connect Camps have the same quality and energy as other camps, but at a much more affordable cost. Featuring large group worship experiences, small group Bible studies, and fun activities, Connect Camps are designed to introduce students to Jesus Christ and help develop followers into mature disciples.

For Students Who Have Completed 6th grade through 12th grade.

SESSION 1: June 2 - 5 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 2: June 5 - 8 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 3: June 9 - 12 Blue Mountain College

CAMP COST: \$175 per person/Deposit of \$50 per person required

PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS OF DEPOSITS AFTER MAY 1.

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1 AND ENDS WHEN CAMP REACHES CAPACITY.

For Registration Information, contact:

Jo Wasson, 800-748-1651, ext. 216, or jwasson@mbcb.org

For Camp Program Information contact:

Ken Hall, 800-748-1651, ext. 286, or khall@mbcb.org

Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, MBCB

VISIT CAMPUS

Going to college this fall?

Have you considered calling
the Baptist Student Union?

We would like to be your first stop in helping you find
your way around!

- Meet the BSU director
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- Learn about area churches

For contact info about
the campus you plan
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601.292.3299
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FEATURING
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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM LUNCHEON

SOUTH
MISSISSIPPI
LUNCH
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
LAUREL
11:30 - 1:00

NORTH
MISSISSIPPI
LUNCH
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014
NORTH OXFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH,
OXFORD
11:30 - 1:00

THESE IS NO COST FOR THE LUNCH.
BUT YOU MUST MAKE
A RESERVATION.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE
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PROMOTION DEPARTMENT
BY THURSDAY, MARCH 20.
1-800-748-1651, EXT. 247
601-292-3347
LEAVELL@MBCB.ORG

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY PARENTS FELLOWSHIP

MMPF

APRIL 11-12, 2014

Parents of Mississippi Missionaries

You are warmly invited to be a part of the MPF weekend
at Geraywa Camp and Conference Center beginning at 2:00 p.m. on
Friday and concluding with lunch on Saturday.

We want you! If you haven't been in a while or have been invited, but
never come - this is the time! We will hear wonderful stories from your
children on the field, and we will bring them before the Lord in prayer.
Come, be a part of something BIG! We look forward to seeing you there!

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

MMF

APRIL 12, 2014
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Current missionaries on Stanside, Retired missionaries, Former missionaries
you are invited to a reunion of Mississippi missionary fellowship!

Light breakfast and a lunch is provided.

Come enjoy the precious time with one another and hear reports from
the field, drenched in prayer. If you know of someone who has not
connected yet, please invite them.

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU
office at 601-292-2319.



MS WMU HISTORICAL BUS TRIP TO MARYLAND

June 5-13, 2014

Come Celebrate 125 Years of WMU

Total costs:

Single - \$1525/person; Double - \$1125/person; Triple/Quad - \$950/person
o \$250 deposit due by April 4

o Trip Includes: tour of national WMU offices in Birmingham, Annie Armstrong
and WMU history sites in Baltimore as part of the WMU Annual Meeting, tours
of IMB and International Learning Center in/near Richmond and visits to Lottie
Moon sites around Virginia.

o We are partnering with Louisiana WMU for this bus trip; great fellowship is
ahead!

For more information contact the MS WMU office at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323.

Explore the Bible.

Changes in the Explore the Bible Curriculum coming Fall 2014
 NEW - adding Preschool, Children, Students **UPDATING** - Adult

Please attend one of the following trainings to learn more about these changes:

4/7/14 - FBC, Madison

4/8/14 - Temple BC, Hattiesburg

4/10/14 - Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Time: 6-8:30 p.m. at all locations.

E-mail cday@mbcb.org and register how many per listed age group your church will be bringing.

Sponsored by



Sunday School Department
 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
 PO Box 630, Jackson MS 39205
 1-800-748-1651, or 601-292-3310



BNF Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas, April 3-5, 2014

The meetings will take place at the El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel and First Baptist Church, San Antonio. We will join BMDF for a time of worship, fellowship, CEUs, and much more!

You will not want to miss it!

Registration and more: www.wmu.com go to Ministries, BNF, BNF Annual Meeting.

For more information contact the MS WMU at 601-292-3319.

GROWING CHURCHES

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS CHURCH
 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 25-26, 2014

CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH
 BRANDON, MS

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.gc2014.iconsites.com

or Contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. at the
 MBCB at 601-292-3284.

Mississippi Baptist STATE SENIOR ADULT Choir Festival

May 6, 2014

FBC, Ridgeland

302 W. Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157
 601-856-6139

Schedule

Morning Session

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Festival begins

Afternoon Session

12:45 p.m. Registration

1:15 p.m. Festival begins

For more information, call the Church Music Dept.
 601-292-3267 or visit our Web site at www.mbc.org

PREACHING 2014 CONFERENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

May 19

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

May 20

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

May 21

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Daniel Caldwell, Ronald Meeks, Wayne VanHorn, C. Alan Woodward

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE
 PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPT. OF THE MBCB:
 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

This April, take time to observe Life Commitment Sunday, a day to focus attention on the calling to vocational ministry.

This can be observed any Sunday in the month of April at your local church.

For more information please contact the Pastor/Leadership

Development Dept. at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

Pray this day for...

March 21 – April 3, 2014

"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

Pray for: **Mark & Karen Alexander**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

23

Pray for: **Arnold & Susie Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through community & church/home outreach evangelism.

24

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

25

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

26

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

27

Pray for: **Shannon & Charlie Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

28

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

29

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

30

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

31

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

1

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

2

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

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to your tax questions.



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Ministerial tax issues can be complicated. That's why GuideStone has consolidated all of our most popular tax resources in one convenient location.

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- Ministerial Tax Issues Booklet
- Compensation Planning Guide
- Housing Allowance Questions & Answers
- Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches

Find them all at: www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide

For more information contact Robin Nichols,
GuideStone Rep., MBCB, at
601-292-3226.

HouseTops

LIFEWAY'S
Agency3
DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15
VBS Leadership Trainings

Dates & Locations:

April 29 – Crossgates BC, Brandon
May 1 – Calvary BC, Batesville
May 5 – Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
May 6 – Carterville BC, Petal

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Just the Facts: Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

Preregister today & get a free VBS Inflatable!

For more information contact the Sunday School Department:
Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org or
Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • PO Box 530 • Jackson MS 39205

BIBLIOCRYPTER

GHE IVXN PZHHLW FH BGYBI YSEW
 TNBLH, PHBPVCHO YSEW PBGE, EWBE
 IH DBI MCVY WVY IH VXTWE EV
 BCPYHN HKHNI DBC.
 LVGVPPSBCP RVXN: PSJ

Clue: G = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation 2:7

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

MS POSITIONS

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATION. Interested candidates should email resumes with references to calvarysearch@gmail.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OCEAN SPRINGS, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN. Please send resumes and/or inquiries to 602 Washington Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 or via email to fbcos.org. Resumes will be accepted through March 31, 2014.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RUNNELSTOWN IN PETAL, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church of Runnelstown, CIO Pastor Search Committee, 9211 Highway 42, Petal, MS 39465.

YOUTH MINISTER-WILWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLINTON, MS. Please mail resumes to Wildwood Baptist Church, 101 Auburn Dr., Clinton, MS 39056 or email to wwbo@comcast.net.

BECKER BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A YEAR ROUND BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to: Becker Baptist Church, Youth Search Committee, P. O. Box 83, Becker, MS 38825.

DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR OR A SEMI-RETIRING MINISTER. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 371 Shelby Dr., Drew, MS 38737.

ROSE HILL FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to 2137 CR 372 Enterprise, MS 39330 or email: dusly73@gmail.com

ARBOR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, MS. Small, rural church seeking part-time Music Minister. Great starter church. Email resume to: roryan69@gmail.com or call 662-456-2091.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN KOSCIUSKO, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME FAMILY/CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

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AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

WILMER BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEARCHING FOR AN EXPERIENCED, SPIRIT FILLED INDIVIDUAL TO JOIN US FULL TIME AS OUR WORSHIP MINISTER. We are also searching for an interim worship leader until that position is filled. For a detailed job description for both positions, visit www.wilmerchurch.com.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MT. OLIVE, AL IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Master of Divinity preferred; 5-10 years' experience as Pastor at a Southern Baptist Church. Please submit resumes by mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117, OR e-mail resumes to: Sheila@bmc.org

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SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRIES NEEDS VAN OR MINI-BUS; 12 passenger. Call 601-270-5008

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Just for the Record

The TeamKids of NEW MONTPELIER CHURCH, GOLDEN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION, participated in Children's Ministry Day Feb. 15. They delivered canned goods and toys and delivered them to Sally Kate Winters Children's Home in West Point, and also ministered at Dugan Nursing Home.



In other Church News:

► Salem Church, Collins, will host Mark Lanier in concert Mar. 23, 6:30 p.m. Dennis Campbell, pastor.

► Ramah Church, McCall Creek, will have a singing with the Mid-South Quartet Mar. 23, 5 p.m.

► Gals Community Bible Study and First Church, McComb, will present Step Into Your Royal Destiny woman's conference featuring Rochelle Frazier and D6 Woman Mar. 29, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Advance tickets, \$20 and \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the church office; contact Lisa at (601) 684-2971 or register online at www.d6woman.com.

► Ackerman Church, Ackerman, will host the Blackwood Brothers in concert Mar. 29, 6 p.m. Love offering.

► First Church, Stonewall, is hosting a women's conference, Let God Row Your Boat, Mar. 29, 8:15 a.m., featuring Sally Smith, music, and testimonies. Lunch provided. Tickets, \$20. For more information, call Smith at (850) 758-7962 or the church at (601) 659-7607.

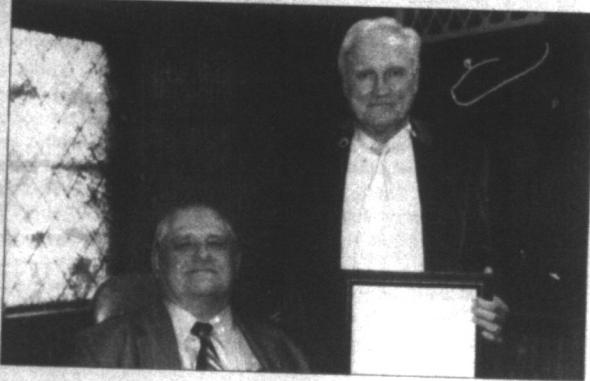
► First Church, Runnelstown, will host The Inspirations in concert Mar. 28, 7:30 p.m. Love offering.



The Children in Action group and the Children's Church kids of TRINITY CHURCH, AMORY, participated in Children's Ministry Day. They made valentines and bags of candy to take to the residents and workers at River Place Nursing Center in Amory.



The youth group of MT. OLIVET CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY, participated in youth day, assuming the positions of leading the music, preaching, ushers, and greeters.



AIRPORT CHURCH, GRENADA, ordained Robert Hicks as deacon Mar. 9. Shown are pastor John W. Lancaster and Hicks.

SOMALIA

cont. from p. 1

eight and 15, witnessed the slaughter, sources said, with the younger girl screaming and shouting for someone to save her mother. A friend helped the girls, whose names are withheld, to relocate to another area.

"We are afraid that the Al Shabaab might continue monitoring these two children and eventually kill them just like their mother," the area resi-

"We are afraid that the Al Shabaab might continue monitoring these two children and eventually kill them just like their mother."

area resident

ABEDINI

cont. from p. 1

who had been able to visit him in the hospital. Pastor Saeed was pinned down and shackled. His elderly relative was roughly handled and expelled from the hospital.

Abedini was denied surgery and given only pain medication. He wasn't even allowed to know the results of the tests he underwent, ACLJ said, and guards claimed they had a court order banning visitors and instructing them to keep him shackled.

Sekulow said the timing of the move to the hospital was suspicious given that EU's vice-president Catherine Ashton, a Briton, was visiting Iran when Abedini was hospitalized. Once she left, he was told he would return to prison with no treatment.

"The EU has been faithfully raising Pastor Saeed's case for some time, and this move would allow Iranian officials to report that he was receiving medical treatment if his case was brought up during the EU's visit to Iran," Sekulow said.

After Abedini was denied

treatment and shackled, and after ACLJ drew worldwide attention to the problem, a family member of Abedini went to the prison to ask why the pastor had been denied medical care, Sekulow reported March 13.

"He was told by prison officials that the whole ordeal was a 'mistake' and that the warden called the hospital and ordered that Pastor Saeed be unchained and permitted to visit the family member."

Iran's behavior demonstrates the need for international pressure to remain strong on Abedini's behalf, Sekulow said, adding that an ACLJ legal team was meeting with world leaders in Geneva, working toward Abedini's release.

Naghmeh Abedini challenged supporters to pray for the meetings in Geneva, stating, "I believe in the power of prayer."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a conversation with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in February, raised the possibility that Abedini and other Americans held by Iran could be granted clemency. The Obama administration has been mostly silent in public, though, on the fate of

Abedini and other Americans. Abedini's wife urged believers to pray that her husband would be released in conjunction with the Iranian New Year.

The day before news of Abedini's hospital beating and shackling broke, Naghmeh Abedini posted on Facebook a glimpse into how she is faring as her husband is persecuted.

"Many nights like tonight/today I am awakened after only 3-4 hours of sleep and I find myself struggling with hopelessness and despair," Naghmeh wrote. "...I spend hours in prayer and crying out to The Lord."

Later that day (March 11) she wrote, "Today I struggled with despair. I spent my day playing worship music, reading my Bible and devotionals, praying, and reading each of your sweet messages (being surrounded by the body of Christ)."

She said God used 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 to remind her that "these pressures and uncertainties happen that I might not rely on myself, but on God." She quoted the passage, emphasizing that "He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us again."

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

another area resident said.

One source noted of Al Shabaab, "They have some spy everywhere in Somalia."

Somalis who have lived in Christian-majority Kenya are especially suspect. The sources told Morning Star News that Omar lived in the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh for seven years. Her husband became ill in 2011 and returned to Somalia, where he died.

Omar and her cousin Moge, who helped take care of her daughters, left Kenya for Somalia in January 2013.

Al Shabaab, closely allied with Al Qaida, is best known for their attack on the upscale Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, last Sept. 21. The attack killed at least 67 people, with dozens still unaccounted for.

This story first appeared at Morning Star News (morningstarnews.org), a California-based independent news service focusing on the persecution of Christians worldwide. Used by permission. Edited for style and length.



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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Guard Your Speech • Proverbs 17:27-28; 21:23; 18:19-21; 11:13; 26:20-24; 10:18-19; 12:17-19; 25:11-13; 31:8-9

We have all heard the expression "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." This old adage seems true on the surface, but underneath we know it is not true. We have all hurt others with the words we have spoken and we have all been hurt by the words of others. Many people today feel it is acceptable to voice their thoughts no matter who they might offend. Our lesson today reminds us that we will be held accountable for every word we speak and that God's desire is for us to use our words to encourage, not discourage, others.

Think Before You Speak
(17:27-28; 21:23)

We all know people who say things before they have thought about what they are saying. If we are honest, we know we have done the same thing ourselves. Through this passage the writer is teaching us that we should choose our words carefully before we speak them, because our words can be helpful or hurtful. In carefully choosing the words we speak, we are demonstrating wisdom in our lives. Another word of advice this passage gives us is that there are times when it is best not to speak at all, even to the point that our silence will make us look wise. We should be very careful to think about

what we are about to say so that we can build others up, not tear them down.

Recognize the Power of Words
(18:19-21)

In verse 19 we find a reminder of how powerful words can be. It says, "An offended brother is harder to reach than a fortified city and quarrels are like the bars of a fortress." (HCSB) As Christians, our major purpose is to share the good news of Jesus with everyone we meet. One of the lessons we talk about often in our F.A.I.T.H. outreach ministry is to always find a way to keep the door of a person's heart open

to further conversations about their relationship with Christ. If we somehow offend the person we are talking with, then the likelihood of that person ever responding to our witnessing attempts is greatly diminished or even gone completely. We are shut out of their lives by our own words because we did not choose them wisely.



Explore the Bible
with Huey Dedmon

us that gossip is an example of hurtful, destructive words. What God desires for us is to demonstrate wisdom in our

lives by refusing to gossip and by refusing to listen to those who gossip.

Guard Against Falsehood
(10:18-19; 12:17-19)

We all know people who seem to never stop talking. They seem to have an endless desire to fill our ears with their every

thought and opinion about everything. Proverbs 12:19 tells us that these people are having their moment and that is all they will get. Those who are wise speak very few words, and when they speak, they speak words of truth and healing (v.17-18). The words that a wise person speaks will last forever (v.19). As God's people we must be in control of what we say. It will make the difference between someone rejecting or accepting the truth of the Gospel.

Use Words to Help and Heal
(25:11-13; 31:8-9)

The pattern we see developing is that we are either a good or bad example of Godly wisdom. The thing to remember is there is no middle ground. The question we must constantly ask ourselves is which example are we. The words we use have the power to bring healing, joy, comfort, and salvation into the lives of the people God has put in our path. Proverbs' admonition to us is to choose our words carefully, think before we speak, refuse to be involved in gossip, and use our words as a chance to impact another's life for Christ.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

Put Your Money to Work • 2 Corinthians 8:10-15; 9:1-5

In November 1904, I spent two weeks with dear friends, Rick and Lori Funderburk, who were missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Worship there is a bit different from your typical Sunday morning service. Your pew is a split log. Your air conditioning thermostat is a stick propped in the window. Your offering is given by dancing to the beat of a very sweaty drummer all the way down the aisle toward the lady minding the wicker basket next to the smoky lantern on the table. No dressed up, three-piece-suited deacon passed you a padded wooden offering plate. I sat on the front row so I didn't have to dance my happy self a little too far out on my Betty Baptist limb. Had I stayed longer, I would have DANCED a lot more and SAT a lot less. Those people had very little, but they were willing to give. They blessed my life. The Lord used their generosity to convict me deeply in the area of giving.

Their offertory song might have been my most favorite of all the ones I learned on that trip. The Krio language lyrics went something like this: "...putcho money inna bank to Jesus...it no go rot in dare!" My "transposition" of their musical message reads: put your money in the bank to Jesus and you can be sure that it will never rot in there. This song is their version of putting

your real treasures in Heaven where moth and rust and thieves are denied access. Wall Street magnates should take a trip to West Africa. On second thought, maybe you and I ought to just take a hike while we re-calibrate our priorities.

Again this week, we are looking at Paul's letter to the Corinthians and the issue of giving to assist financially struggling churches in Judea. Churches in other parts of Macedonia were already happily shouldering their part of the load to meet this need. Corinthian churches had committed to help with these offerings but had dropped the ball. Paul was writing both to commend and challenge them to finish their course by fulfilling their commitment. In Chapter 8 verse 10, we read that they had formulated their plan to give "one year ago." They filled out their commitment cards with good intentions and promptly filed the motion

in the "old business" folder at their quarterly council meeting.

To make a vow and not keep that vow reveals a lot about the one who made the vow in the first place. Better not to make the vow at all. If that counsel sounds biblical, it should, because it is. Solomon warns in Ecclesiastes 5 that we should perform what we promise, especially when our promise was made to God. Bookend that with this: Jesus concurred with Solomon

in the parable of the father and his two sons working in the vineyard. Find that story in chapter 21 of the gospel of Matthew.

An Old Testament global warning and a Red Letter New Testament confirmation should get our attention.

We can't give in comparison to others lest our giving would become a contest that morphs into a bragging session. We can't give what we don't have, but we surely must give in accordance with

what we have been given. Last week, we nailed down the God-to-Abraham mandate: we are blessed in order to be a blessing. When we bless others, we bless the Lord. Paul cautioned the Corinthians that one day the proverbial shoe might be on the other foot. They might just find themselves on the "need to receive" list. Nothing gets my attention like a strong dose of "Shoe-ology."

I made a 1998 trip to the Ivory Coast of West Africa. They danced, too. Some might say that coming forward like that and dancing all the way to the altar to give their offerings was showy and bragadocios. I absolutely did not sense that feeling whatsoever. I watched their faces. They were happy to be in the Lord's House. They were grateful to be away from the desperately critical daily challenge of individual human survival. They were thrilled to be in worship with fellow believers. They were humbled by the blessings of God. They were happy, yes, even joyful, to be able to give even the smallest of return on the investment the Lord had made in their lives. God and God alone invented RE-GIFTING!

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland

CONFERENCE

cont. from p. 1

Tada's song, *Alone Yet Not Alone*, the theme for the small-budget, independent movie of the same title, was nominated this year for an Academy Award for Best Song. The nomination was rescinded after the Academy of

Motion Picture Arts and Sciences alleged the song was improperly promoted by its composer.

However, at least one Hollywood insider said he believes the nomination was pulled after the Academy realized the movie was faith-based.

Gerald Molen, the Oscar-winning producer of such movies as *Schindler's List* and *Jurassic*

Park, wrote a letter to the Academy after the nomination was scrapped. "Every film, director, writer, cinematographer, actor, art director, costume designer, and efx house finds a way to pitch or promote their work. Many will see this decision as faith-based bigotry pure and simple," he wrote.

The Academy stood pat on

their decision, and the Oscar went to *Let It Go*, from the movie *Frozen*.

According to movieguide.com, *Alone Yet Not Alone* is based on the true story of the two Leininger sisters' abduction by the Delaware Indians in 1755, and how their Christian faith helped them through their personal crisis. The movie,

which went into limited release on Sept. 27 of last year, is rated PG-13. A trailer can be viewed at aloneyetnotalone.com.

The Health Conference was sponsored by MBCB, Baptist Health Systems, Inc., and Summit Counseling of First Church, Jackson. Funding was provided by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Just for the Record



SAULS VALLEY CHURCH, MONTICELLO, broke ground for its new Christian life center Mar. 2.



MC LAURIN HEIGHTS CHURCH, PEARL, gave a "13th check" to the Cooperative Program for \$12,809.39. Four years ago, the church fashioned a Challenge Budget to be used if the church took in more designated receipts in their fiscal year than their budgeted expenditures. 33% of the Challenge Budget goes toward the Cooperative Program, in addition to the 12% the church gives to the CP. Shown are Rick Blythe (left), director, Stewardship/Cooperative Program Promotion, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, receiving the check from McLaurin Heights pastor Steve Jackson.



SUNFLOWER CHURCH, SUNFLOWER, honored Clarice Pittman with a special service and dinner Mar. 2. Pittman has served as church clerk for over 40 years, as well as in other capacities since 1947.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Meadville Church, Meadville**: Revival, Mar. 23 - 26; Sun., 10- a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Fortenberry, speaker; Todd McDaniel, music.

► **Ogden Church, Bentonia**: Revival, Mar. 23 - 26; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Shelton, speaker; Rick Pike, worship leader; Paul Stupka, pastor.

► **Fair River Church, Lincoln Association**: Revival, March 30-April 2; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music Sunday a.m.; One Way Ministries-Steve & Becky Carver & Family, music Sunday-Wednesday evenings; Jay Anderson, pastor.

LIVE WEBCAST

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Leadership Training

APRIL 15, 2014 • 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Is your Adult Bible Study Healthy?

We will be addressing questions from Bible Study Leaders across the state. You can submit your own questions by text via a live chat during the webcast. Join with us at no cost from your church, home or wherever you are by Internet on your computer, laptop, phone or tablet. (PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, iPod, etc.)

Topics

Healthy Preparation, Healthy Teaching, Healthy Application

Bonus Vignettes

Adults in Mississippi, Today's Church, The State of Kansas, Weekday Ministry, The State of Louisiana, The State of Mississippi, The State of Tennessee, The State of Texas, The State of Virginia, The State of West Virginia, The State of Wyoming.

Connect with us on April 15 at 6:30 by going to: www.mbc.org/leadertraining

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation invites you to attend

"DELIVER US!"

a production by *Ballet Magnificat!*

6:00 p.m. | March 30 | Broadmoor Baptist Church

free admission • call the Foundation at 601-292-3240 for more details

